

KETTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1938.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :

Medical Officer of Health.—W. Anley Hawes, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., Lond., Part time.

District Medical Officers and Public Vaccinators.—Under Poor Law, E. S. Edwards, M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P., Lond.

Sanitary Inspector.—A. Coulter, C.R.S.I.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith beg to submit my report for the year 1938.

Area, 16,549 Acres.

Population, 2,675.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 701.

Rateable Value, £12,082.

Sum represented by Penny Rate, £48.

Social Conditions.—The chief industry of the area is agriculture. There are stone quarries at Clipsham and Ketton. Cement manufacture is carried on by the Ketton Portland Cement Co., other factories being the British Oxygen Co., and the Agricultural Stone Co., Ltd.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births.	Legitimate	37	19	18	} Birth rate per 1000 of estimated resident population is 14.9
	Illegitimate	3	1	2	
Still Births. Deaths.	Legitimate	1	—	1	} Death rate per 1000 population is 8.7.
		24	8	16	
Deaths from puerperal sepsis		0	0	0	
Deaths from other puerperal causes.		Nil.			

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	50
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	50
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Corresponding Rates for England and Wales.

Birth rate	14.9	increase of .1 compared with 1937.
Death rate	12.4	increase of .3 compared with 1937.
Infantile Mortality	58	decrease of 1 compared with 1937.

Section B.—General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

The same facilities exist as reported last year.

(b) *Ambulance Facilities.*

Infectious Disease. During the year the ambulance owned jointly by this Council and the Barnack Rural District Council has been used to convey infectious cases to the Isolation Block of Stamford Infirmary. This ambulance however ceases to be maintained after 31st December, 1939, owing to the closure of the aforesaid Isolation Block.

Non-Infectious Diseases. The excellent service provided by the Local Stamford St. John Ambulance Brigade is available at all times.

(c) *Nursing in the Home.*

This is provided by the local District Nursing Association.
This Council makes no provision.

(d) *Clinics and Treatment Centres.*

Ante-natal. No Clinics exist, but a scheme for ante-natal examination of expectant mothers, carried out by general medical practitioners, is provided by the County Council. This also includes the help and advice of obstetrical consultants. Cases of difficult labour are admitted to the Maternity Wards of the Stamford, Rutland and General Infirmary.

(e) *There are no hospitals in this district.*

Section C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—Ryhall. There has again been a shortage of water in this village. At one time (November) approximately three fourths of the residents were obtaining their drinking water from Essendine Hill.

The wells in the centre of village and school end being either quite dry or very low and obviously containing organic particles

One sample was taken from each of the three remaining wells in this end of the village, the analyst's report being

(a) One sample, good.

(b) One containing organic matter and needed filtration and boiling, etc.

(c) One definitely contaminated and unfit for drinking.

Complaints were received by me from the cottages using (b) that all the residents had suffered from enteritis.

On my latest report the Council have obtained the opinion of water engineers, and a scheme for conducted supply to the whole village is being made.

I am still more convinced of the necessity of a conducted supply both on account of shortage and the obvious contamination of the wells.

Great Casterton. The centre of the village still depends on one spring with catchment chamber, some 20 feet from river bank ; and private wells.

A new school has now been built on the outskirts of the village, and has an adequate and good supply.

Although no shortage of water has been reported during the year, I am of the opinion that a conducted supply to the centre of the village would be far safer, owing to the difficulty of determining position of old drains, etc.

The other villages are adequately supplied.

(ii.) *Drainage and Sewerage.*—That of surface water only.

2. *River and Streams.*—No actions have been necessary with regard to river pollution.

3. (i.) *Closet Accommodation.*—The pail closet is in use in the District.

(ii.) *Public Cleansing.*—There is a system of collection by the Council Scavenger of the pail closets and dry house refuse in all the main villages ; In the smaller villages with adequate garden space the residents dispose of both types of refuse themselves.

(a) The method of collecting dry house refuse.

Collection by Council Scavengers in all the main villages once weekly.

(b) The method of collecting refuse from earth closets and privies.

Collection by Council Scavengers in all the main villages once weekly.

(c) The method of disposing of dry house refuse. Into pits in the vicinity of the villages of Ketton, Great Casterton, Belmishorpe and Essendine.

(d) The method of disposing of refuse from earth closets and privies. Usually emptied on farm lands.

(e) The method of cleansing cesspools. Pumps or Buckets.

(f) Arrangements for disposal of cesspool contents. Land disposal.

(iii.) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

No. of Inspections made for all purposes	...	...	...	1,848
Notices served, 13. Informal, 13	...	...	...	11
Statutory, 10. Summons issued, 0	...	...	...	0
Complaints received during the year	...	...	...	0
Premises. Houses inspected	...	...	...	183
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	1
Pigstyes. Inspected	...	...	...	7
Nuisance abated	...	...	...	0
Privies. Repaired	...	...	...	1
Converted to Pails	...	...	...	0
Converted to W.C's.	...	...	...	0
Cesspools. Cleansed	...	...	...	0
Abolished	...	...	...	0
Drains. Inspected and repaired	...	...	...	1
Sanitary gullies substituted for defective traps	...	...	...	0
Offensive Accumulations. Inspected	...	...	...	0
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	0
Wells Repaired	...	...	...	0

(iv.) *Shops.* No action taken.

(v.) *Camping Sites.* No sites exist in the area.

(vi.) *Smoke Abatement.*

During the year I received numerous complaints from neighbouring villages with regard to fumes from the Ketton Cement Works.

As before reported the fumes are extremely unpleasant and irritating to the nose and throat on account of the sulphur dioxide and hydrogen bisulphide content.

At my request the Ketton Cement Works were visited by the Representative of the Chief Inspector of Alkalis, who was supplied with copies of written complaints received by me and with whom the matter now rests.

As a means of helping this nuisance the Works have now erected an immense chimney with the object of obtaining a larger and quicker diffusion of gases.

(vii.) *Swimming Baths and Pools.*—None existing in the District.

(viii.) *Eradication of Bed Bugs.*—No fumigants or insecticides have been used for disinfection purposes.

4. *Schools.*—A large School has now been erected on the outskirts of village, acting as central school for several villages. It is of the latest design in hygiene.

Section D. Housing.

The following Council Houses have been erected by the Council and are now occupied :—

Ketton	...	...	...	...	12
Ryhall	...	...	...	...	12
Essendine	...	...	...	...	6
Tinwell	...	...	...	...	4

Ryhall. Two houses have been built by private enterprise.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

- (i.) (a) Number of Dwelling Houses inspected for defects, 183.
(b) Number of inspections made, 183.
- (ii.) (a) Number of Houses inspected and recorded under 1925 Regulations, Nil.
(b) Number of inspections for that purpose, Nil.
- (iii.) Number of dwellings found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation, .
- (iv.) Number of Dwelling Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 1.

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers, 16.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under Secs. 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936.

- (i.) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.
- (ii.) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.
 - (a) By Owners, Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners, Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (i.) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, 1.
- (ii.) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices.
 - (a) By Owners, 1.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners, Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of Housing Act, 1930.

- (i.) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, Nil.
- (ii.) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, Nil.

D. Proceedings under Section 26 of Housing Act, 1930.

- (i.) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made, Nil.
- (ii.) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit, Nil.

4. Housing Act 1936. Part iv. Overcrowding :—

- (a) (i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year, Nil.
- (ii.) Number of families dwelling therein.
- (iii.) Number of persons dwelling therein.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year, Nil.
- (c) (i.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, 4.
- (ii.) Number of persons concerned in such cases, 30.
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding, Nil.
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.

Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.—Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Purveyors :—

Number of Dairymen in District, 37.
 Number of Inspections of Premises, 517.
 Results satisfactory, 509.
 No licences issued for Grade A or Classified Milk.
 Premises. Number on Register, 37.
 Inspections during Milking, 123.
 Contravention of regulations, 8.
 Samples taken for bacterial contents, Nil.
 Licensed Premises inspected, 29.
 Nuisances abated, 7.

(b) Meat and Other Foods. Butchers' Shops and Slaughter Houses.

Number on Register, 3.
 Adulteration of Food. No Factories. No action necessary.

(c) Adulteration, etc., Nil.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food, Nil.

(e) Nutrition Nil.

(f) Shell-Fish (Molluscan), Nil.

5. Carcasses Inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows. Not known	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)					
Number inspected	47	—	—	33	51
All diseases except tuberculosis whole carcasses condemned					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned					
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis					
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned					
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis					
Bakchouses.					
Number in District, 5.					
Number of Inspections, 101.					
Nuisances found, 0.					
Cleansed and Limewashed, 0.					

Section F. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases.

The district has again been very free from infectious diseases during the year there being one case of Scarlet Fever and one of acute polio myelitis reported.

The contract for the treatment of specified infectious diseases with the Stamford and Rutland General Infirmary terminated on 31st December, 1938. A fresh contract was therefore made by this Council with the Melton Mowbray Isolation Hospital for the admission of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid and Para-typhoid, Encephalitis Lethargica, Erysipelas, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Puerperal Pyrexia, at the charge of £85 per annum as retaining fee, and a weekly charge of one guinea per patient: together with charge of ambulance and serum.

Non-notifiable Diseases.

The Isolation Blocks of the Stamford and Rutland General Infirmary having closed, no accommodation has been provided or is apparently available for complicated cases of Measles, Whooping Cough and Mumps.

No system of Artificial Immunization for Diphtheria is provided by the County in this District. No provision for Measles Serum is made.

No accommodation is available for Influenzal Pneumonia. Isolated cases might be treated at the Stamford Infirmary where the general ward accommodation is extremely limited owing to demand. The Isolation Blocks of this hospital in the past was used for these epidemic cases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1936.

Disease	Notified	Admitted to Hospital		Deaths
		Isolation Blocks	Stamford Infirmary	
Small-pox	0			
Scarlet Fever	1	1		
Diphtheria	0			
Enteric Fever	0			
Puerperal Fever	0			
Puerperal Pyrexia	0			
Pneumonia	0			
Other Diseases	0			

(a) *Cancer*. No undue prevalence in the District. No treatment or propaganda centre exist.

(b) *Prevention of Blindness*. Nil.

(c) *Tuberculosis*. New cases and mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.
0—				
1—				
5—				
15—		1		
25—				
35—				
45—				
55—				
65 and Upwards			1	
Totals				

B. H. H. H.